

REMARKS

The above amendments and following remarks are responsive to the non-final Office Action mailed October 18, 2006. Upon entry of the above amendments, Claims 1, 5, 7, 12, and 22 will have been amended, Claims 2-4 and 13, 14, 16, 17 will have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer, and Claims 6, 8, 10, 11, 14, 15, and 18-21 will have been withdrawn as being drawn to a non-elected species. Of the withdrawn claims, Claims 6, 8, and 15 will have been amended to be consistent with the amendments to base Claim 1 to facilitate rejoinder by Examiner upon allowance of Claim 1. Claims 1, 5-12, 15, and 18-22 will be pending. No new matter has been introduced. Entry and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Response to the Objection of the Disclosure

The specification has been objected to on the basis of various informalities. Applicants have amended the specification to obviate the Examiner's objections.

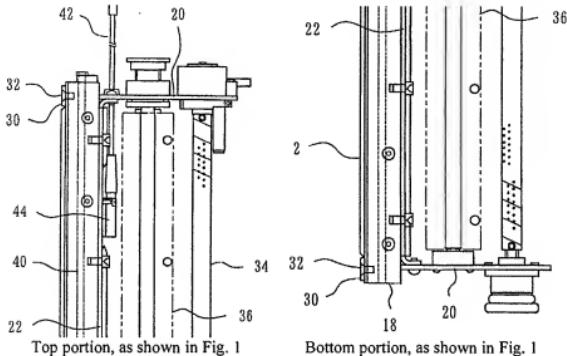
The Examiner has also indicated that

"it is unclear whether the recitation of 'plates 30" on p. 6, line 14 is correct in view of what Figs. 1 and 3 show for numeral 30. It would appear that "plates 30" should then read -pates 20- but clarification is respectfully requested. Accordingly, reference 30 in Figs. 1 and 3 would then need to be properly referenced in the specification."

Figure 1 depicts both (1) the side plates 20 of the frame of the cleaning unit and (2) the plates 30 that are engaged with the opposite ends 12 of the base portion 8. Side plates 20 are disclosed, at least on Page 6, Lines 4-6, and depicted in at least Figure 1, as being connected by the back-up bar 22 on which the support bar 18 is mounted. Plates 30, on the other hand, are disclosed, at least on page 6, Lines 13-16, and depicted in at least Figure 1, as being engaged with the opposite ends 12 of the base portion 8, wherein the plates 30, base portion 8, and the

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support bar 18 are fixed to each other by means of screws 32. The Examiner's attention is directed to the portions of Figure 1 included below in which side plates 20 are connected to the support bar 18 via back-up bar 22, and plates 30 are connected to the support bar 18 on a side opposite to side plate 20.



Since side plates 20 and plates 30 are disclosed and depicted as separate elements, Applicant respectfully submit that no amendments to either the specification and/or drawings is necessary.

Accordingly, the objection to the disclosure should be withdrawn.

Response to the Claim Objections

Claims 1, 12, and 16 have been objected to on the basis of various informalities.

Applicants have amended the claims to obviate the Examiner's objections.

Accordingly, the claim objection is now moot and should be withdrawn.

Response to Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-5, 7, 12, 13, 16, 17, and 22 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent 5,762,000 to Detmers in view of US patent 5,519,914 to Egan. Applicants traverse this rejection and respectfully submit that the subject matter recited in Applicants' claims is neither taught, suggested, nor otherwise rendered obvious over the applied references of Detmers and/or Egan, either alone or in combination.

Independent Claim 1 has been amended to recite a cleaning apparatus for cleaning a plate cylinder 38 in an offset printing press that having a pressure pad for a cleaning a fabric 4. The pressure pad including a particular portion formed on a base portion, both formed of rubber and integral with one another. The particular portion further includes a predetermined width, which is less than the width of the base portion 8, and positioned between opposite side portions of the base portion, which are fixed to a side surface of a support bar. The support bar includes an air passage formed therein through which pressurized air is directed between the pressure pad and the support bar, whereby the pressure pad can be deformed by pressurized air toward a plate cylinder of the offset printing press. The cleaning fabric is nipped between the particular portion of the pressure pad and the plate cylinder.

In contrast, Detmers discloses a cleaning apparatus including a pressure element 10 that includes a press-on material 13 formed on a press-on element 12. A holder 9, of Detmers includes an air passage formed therein for directing pressurized air between the pressure element 10 and the holder 9. However, unlike the pressure pad of Applicants' recited invention, it appears that the press-on element of Detmers is not formed of rubber and is, therefore, not deformed by pressurized air. In Detmers, it is clear that the pressure element 10 is not deformed, but is rather moved along opposite side surfaces of the holder 9 to be advanced toward a printing-unit cylinder 1. With this arrangement, the Detmers apparatus is required to not only

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make the press-on element 12 fitted with the opposite side surfaces of the holder 9 for movement but also to involve guide bolts 14 and resetting elements 17, which is a rather complicated structure in comparison with Applicants' recited invention.

The secondary reference of Egan merely discloses a sponge S which the Examiner urges reads-on Applicants' recited particular portion. Unlike the Applicants' recited particular portion, the sponge S disclosed by Egan has a hardness of less than 20 degrees, which would not result in the sponge as a cushion. In addition, it appears that the sponge S of Egan includes small holes formed therein that would be problematic in that cleaning liquid must be disposed into the small holes when the cleaning liquid being supplied for cleaning. Such holes with cleaning fluid would render the sponge S of Detmers dirty and greatly degrade cleaning ability.

In view of the above primary teaching of Detmers and the secondary teaching of Egan, nowhere is it seen where either Detmers and/or Egan, either alone or in combination, teach or suggest a cleaning apparatus as recited in Applicant's independent Claim 1. Likewise, neither reference, either alone or in combination, includes any teaching or suggestion that would have motivated one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to modify the primary teaching of Detmers in view of the secondary teaching of Egan as advanced by the Examiner. As such, the subject matter recited in Applicants' independent Claim 1, as well as Applicant's dependent Claims 5, 12, 14, 15, and 18-22, is distinguished over the disclosures of Detmers and/or Egan, either alone or in combination.

Accordingly, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) should be withdrawn.

Response to the Drawing Objection

The drawings have been objected to one the basis that

“they do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description:
Hollow portion 17 as recited at p. 9, line 2.”

Contrary to the Examiner’s objection, the specification, at Page 9, Line 2, does not disclose a “hollow portion 17”, but instead correctly discloses a --hollow portion 47--, which is, in fact, depicted in Figure 11. The Examiner’s attention is directed to Figure 11, provided below for the Examiner’s convenience, in which disclosed --hollow portion 47-- is shown disposed between particular portion 6 and base portion 8.

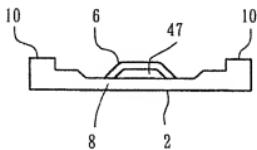


Figure 11, showing hollow portion 47

As such, Applicants respectfully submit that no amendments to either the specification and/or drawings are necessary.

Accordingly, the drawing objection should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1, 5, 12, 14, 15, and 18-22 are in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

AUTHORIZATIONS

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for the timely consideration of this amendment, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 0140-4224.

Respectfully submitted,
MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.

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By: 
Bryan W. Brown
Reg. No.: 47,265
(202) 857-7887 Telephone
(202) 857-7929 Facsimile

Correspondence Address

Morgan & Finnegan, L.L.P.
Three World Financial Center
New York, NY 10281-2101
(212) 415-8700 Telephone
(212) 415-8701 Facsimile